GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:20
ANSWERED ON:24.02.2016
Science Research Work
Verma Shri Rajesh

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the measures being taken by the Government to make the science research work easier;

(b) whether the Government is going to ensure availability of adequate funds for study of science and conduct of research work by meritorious students; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES
(SHRI.Y. S. CHOWDARY)

(a) Government has taken several measures to make the science research work easier. The research infrastructure of Universities/Colleges has been significantly strengthened through schemes like Fund for improvement of S&T infrastructures in universities and higher educational institutions (FIST) and Promotion of University Research and Scientific Excellence (PURSE). The in-house sophisticated analytical instruments created through the schemes have made the research work easier and efficient. The Science and Engineering Research Board, a Statutory body, established with the purpose of de-bureaucratizing the science sector has been strengthened to evolve innovative funding schemes and provide quick support to needy scientists. The levels of peer review and approval mechanisms has been re-structured to make the funding process quick with known yardsticks of measurements. Project Investigators were provided operational flexibility through rationalization of budget heads. Steps were taken to build e-based management systems to bring more transparency in the processes, efficiency and speed of service delivery.

(b) & (c): Yes, Madam. Government is committed to ensure availability of adequate funds for study of science and conduct of research work by meritorious students. The Plan allocation has been made taking account of schemes under implementation such as Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research (INSPIRE), Kishore Vaigyanik Protsahan Yojana (KVPY), National Postdoctoral Fellowship, Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Fellowships (SPMF), Junior/Senior Research Fellowships (JRF/SRF), Research Associateship to attract more and more talented students to study science and pursue careers with research. A modest allocation of Rs. 407.50 crore for INSPIRE Program in 2015-16 ensures adequate support to students through various schemes including scholarship and fellowships. During the current financial year more than 2800 research fellows have been selected and being supported by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR).

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